
JANUARY 4th, 1805.

Read the first and second time, and committed to a committee of the whole house, on Thursday next.

A B I L L,

TO incorporate the trustees of the Presbyterian Congregation of George Town, and for other purposes.

1 **Be it enacted**, by the Senate and House of Representa-
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
3 That Stephen B. Balch, William Whann, James Melvin, John
4 Maffitt, John Peter, William King, James Calder, George Thomp-
5 son, Henry Knowles, and David Wiley, and their successors,
6 duly elected, or appointed, in manner herein after directed, be,
7 and they are hereby made, declared, and constituted a corpora-
8 tion, and body politic, in law, and in fact, to have continuance
9 forever, by the name, stile, and title, of the trustees of the
10 presbyterian congregation, in George Town.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That all and singular, the
2 lands, tenements, rents, annuities, rights, privileges, goods, and

3 chattels, heretofore given, granted, devised, or bequeathed, to
 4 the said congregation, or to any person, or persons, for the use
 5 thereof, or that have been purchased, for, or on account of the
 6 same, be and are hereby vested in, and confirmed, to the said
 7 corporation; *And further*, That the said corporation may pur-
 8 chase, take, receive, and enjoy, any lands, tenements, rents,
 9 annuities, rights, or privileges, or any goods, chattels, or other
 10 effects, of what kind, or nature soever, which shall or may here-
 11 after be given, granted, sold, bequeathed, or devised, unto them
 12 by any person or persons, bodies politic, or corporate, capable
 13 of making such gift, grant, sale, or bequest; and the said pro-
 14 perty, real, and personal, to rent, sell, convey, and confirm, or
 15 otherwise dispose of, as fully, and effectually as any person, or
 16 persons, bodies politic, or corporate, may or can do; *Provided*,
 17 that the clear annual income of all such property, may not ex-
 18 ceed the sum of 3,000 dollars, that no part of the ground now
 19 appropriated, and inclosed for a grave yard, be disposed of for
 20 any other purpose, and that the aforesaid property, real and
 21 personal, be considered as held in the trust, under the manage-
 22 ment, and at the disposal of said corporation, for the purpose of
 23 defraying the expenses, incident to their mode of religious wor-
 24 ship, practised by the above mentioned congregation, in confor-
 25 mity to the form of church government and discipline prescribed
 26 by the general assembly of the presbyterian church, in the Unit-
 27 ed States of America; of enclosing and keeping in decent re-

28 pair, their grave yards, and other lots, with the buildings there-
 29 on, and of affording such relief to the poor, as their funds may
 30 from time to time allow, and for no other purpose.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the said corporation,
 2 by the name, style, and title aforesaid, be and shall be hereafter,
 3 forever, able, and capable in law, to sue, and be sued, plead, and
 4 be impleaded, answer, and be answered unto, defend, and be
 5 defended, in any court, or courts, or other places, and before
 6 any judge, or judges, justice or justices, or other person what-
 7 soever within the district of Columbia, or elsewhere, in all, and
 8 all manner of suits, actions, complaints, pleas, causes, matters,
 9 and demands, of whatsoever kind or nature they may be, in as
 10 full and effectual a manner, as any other person, or persons,
 11 bodies politic, or corporate, may or can do.

1 SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That the said corporation,
 2 shall have full power and authority, to make, have, and use, a
 3 common seal, with such device and inscription, as they shall
 4 think proper, and the same to break, alter, and renew, at their
 5 pleasure, to appoint a treasurer, secretary and such other offi-
 6 cers, as they may deem necessary, and proper; to assign them
 7 their duties, and fix their compensation, and to remove any, or
 8 all of them, from office, appoint another or others, in their
 9 place, as often as they shall think fit, to make, ordain, establish,
 10 and execute, such bye laws, and ordinances, as may be deemed
 11 useful, for their own government; and the same to alter, amend,

12 or abrogate at pleasure, to fill up vacancies that may happen in
 13 their number, between two annual elections, and to determine
 14 upon, do, and transact, all business, and matters appertaining to
 15 the said corporation, and to the secular affairs of said congrega-
 16 tion, agreeable to the rules, ordinances and bye laws thereof,
 17 during their continuance in office: *Provided*, That not less than
 18 five trustees be a quorum to do business; that no bye law, rule,
 19 or ordinance shall be made, repugnant to the laws of this dis-
 20 trict; and that no person, whether belonging to the said congrega-
 21 tion, or otherwise, be bound to pay to said corporation, any
 22 contribution, tax, or assessment, farther than he or she, hath vo-
 23 luntarily engaged, or become bound to pay, that the rents on
 24 such pews, in the church, as are already sold shall not be raised,
 25 unless by the consent of a majority of the regular members of
 26 said congregation, that are entitled to vote in other cases signi-
 27 fied by a written application; that no person shall be permitted
 28 to hold any pew, in the church, or lot in the grave yard, who
 29 shall neglect to pay the rent thereof, in four months after it be-
 30 comes due, and that said trustees shall not interfere with the
 31 ecclesiastical polity of said congregation, with the choosing of
 32 a pastor, or other ecclesiastical officer, or in any way with the
 33 exercise of ecclesiastical discipline, further than may, or can be
 34 done, by any other member of said congregation.

1 SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the regular settled se-
 2 nior pastor of said congregation, shall always be a trustee ex of-

3 scio, and when present at the meeting of the corporation, shall
 4 preside, and in cases of equal division on any subject, shall have
 5 a casting vote; that there shall be an annual meeting of the mem-
 6 bers belonging to said congregation, held on the first Tuesday
 7 of April, in every year hereafter, at the church or usual place
 8 of public worship, at which time and place the said members
 9 or such of them as may be present, shall elect, and choose by
 10 ballot from their own number, nine trustees, to serve for the
 11 year ensuing their election, and until others shall be elected, or
 12 appointed to serve in their place.

1 SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That the said trustees shall
 2 keep or cause to be kept, in suitable books for the purpose, just
 3 and proper entries, of all the proceedings and accounts of said
 4 congregation and corporation, and have them laid before the
 5 members, at every annual meeting, previous to taking the
 6 votes, and shall always deliver the said books, together with all
 7 the property of said congregation, and corporation, in good or-
 8 der, to their successors in office, whenever required.

1 SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That the said corporation
 2 shall have power, and they are hereby authorized, and em-
 3 powered, to raise by lottery any sum not exceeding three thou-
 4 sand dollars, and by any scheme they may deem proper; to be
 5 applied to finishing the meeting house, and putting a decent en-
 6 closure around their grave yards; and for no other purpose.

1 SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That the trustees of the
2 presbyterian congregation in Georgetown, be authorized to appoint
3 managers of said lottery, who shall be severally sworn, faithfully
4 and impartially, to superintend the sale of the tickets, and the
5 drawing of said lottery, and before any of the tickets are sold or
6 disposed of, the said managers shall enter into bond, with good
7 and sufficient security, to the mayor of George Town, such as
8 he shall approve of, conditioned, that the said lottery shall be
9 drawn in a reasonable time, and that the prizes shall be published
10 in one of the news papers in the territory of Columbia, and
11 paid to the possessors of the several fortunate tickets, within six
12 months, after the publication of the prizes aforesaid.